

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 042974  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:WNEWLIN/LD  
APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY  
EUR/NE:RLFUNSETH  
EUR/RPM:EREHFELD  
EUR/RDVINE  
EUR/GSVEST  
DOD/ISA:GENERAL BOWMAN  
-----081707 172332Z /64  
O R 172243Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T STATE 042974

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN HAWK: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO  
FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET. BEGIN TEXT:

2. DEAR MR. MINISTER:

-- I HAVE LEARNED FROM HAROLD BROWN OF THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS TALKS WITH MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS AND AM PLEASED THEY HAD SUCH A GOOD EXCHANGE. BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPROVED HAWKBELT WAS, OF COURSE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC, AND I WOULD LIKE PERSONALLY TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU SOME OF  
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THE POINTS HAROLD MADE.

-- I DO NOT THINK I NEED TO DWELL ON THE FACT THAT THE INTEGRITY OF HAWKBELT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MILITARY OBJECTIVES OF THE NATO ALLIANCE. ANY DEFENSE IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.

-- I BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE HAWKBELT IS ALMOST EQUAL TO ITS MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE. BELGIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE AN

IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION OF THE POLITICAL SOLIDARITY OF THE ALLIANCE. MOREOVER, A NEGATIVE BELGIAN DECISION ON THE HAWKBELT WOULD CONSIDERABLY UNDERCUT OUR OWN EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THE CONGRESS THAT INCREASED US EFFORTS IN NATO ARE JUSTIFIED BY INCREASED EUROPEAN EFFORTS.

-- I RECOGNIZE SOME IN BRUSSELS ARE ARGUING THAT BELGIUM SHOULD SEEK FIRM ASSURANCES THAT US PURCHASES OF BELGIAN GOODS WILL EQUAL THE COST OF BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE HAWKBELT. AS YOU KNOW, THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING INITIALED ON JANUARY 14 WOULD WAIVE QTE BUY AMERICA UNQTE AND OTHER DIFFERENTIALS ON DEFENSE PURCHASES UNTIL US PURCHASES IN BELGIUM EQUAL THE DOLLAR FLOW TO THE US RESULTING FROM BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE HAWKBELT. I BELIEVE THAT THE DETRACTORS OF THIS AGREEMENT UNDERESTIMATE BELGIAN INDUSTRY. I NOTE THAT IN THE F-16 PROGRAM WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED OVER 60 PERCENT OFFSET WITH BELGIUM.

-- MR. MINISTER, IF YOU SHARE MY VIEW ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ABOVE POINTS I HOPE YOU WILL USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THAT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION  
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IN THE HAWKBELT IS ACHIEVED.

-- I MIGHT ADD THAT I CONSIDERED TELEPHONING YOU ON THIS MATTER BUT REFRAINED WHEN I LEARNED YOU HAD BEEN SENT HOME WITH THE FLU AS I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO DISTURB YOU AT HOME. I HOPE THIS FINDS YOU NOW EITHER BACK AT WORK OR WELL ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT MEETING. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE.  
END TEXT.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MPOL, PSDC, BE, NATO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (SIMONET, HENRI)  
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